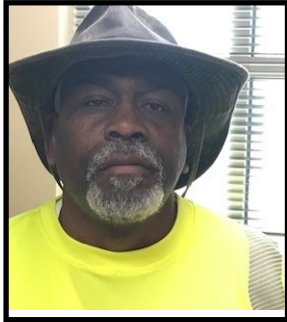


Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division is celebrating Black History month by spotlighting employees whose exemplary work fosters the mission of the department.



Employee Spotlight: Mathew Boddie

Railroad Safety Inspector, HQ Freight Railroad Safety Office

His hobbies are football, basketball, volleyball, and tennis.

His favorite quote is, "Say that I was a drum major for justice."

- Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

Joined TDOT Family November 1984

Tell us about a moment in Black History that influenced or shaped your career and life.

The assassination of Dr. King shaped my career and life. I was nine at the time and very turbulent times followed. Blacks were afraid to go places. My mother would not allow me to attend school, which affected my perfect attendance that I was very proud of having. I eventually convinced her that the Black schools were safe and I was finally allowed to return.

Which of the TDOT Values (Stewardship, Integrity, Safety, Consistency, Development, Innovation, Collaboration & Family) resonates with you and give an example.

The Safety value resonates the most with me because as a Railroad Inspector, it is a very important aspect of the job.

Why is celebrating Black History Month important?

Black History Month is important to me because of the "First of a kind" that we still see today. I was the 1st Black Railroad Inspector in the State of TN. I was also the 1st Black Federal/State Railroad Inspector in the United States. The younger generation can't imagine the hardships we endured so they can enjoy a normal work place. The struggle is not over, but it has gotten better.

